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Foreword

Corey Schaecher

Michael Antonio Brockland
Mbrockland@gmail.com

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FOREWORD

On February 23, 2007, the Saint Louis University School of Law and the *Saint Louis University Public Law Review* brought together local and national experts to take part in a symposium titled, “The Urban Family: Responding to the Challenges of Domestic Violence, Poverty and Parenting.” The underlying goals of the symposium were to highlight the everyday problems faced in America’s contemporary urban areas, solutions available through community outreach programs, and manners in which the legal community can best serve to help resolve these daily struggles.

Building from the success of the symposium, the editors realized the urban family topic could be greatly expanded to include topics beyond those presented at the School of Law. We were fortunate enough to find professors and practitioners willing to contribute their works and to help broaden the scope of this issue. Additionally, and although not on topic of the urban family, the *Public Law Review* was able to include an important article that examines a recent Missouri Supreme Court opinion that completely diverges from the Court’s previous stance of permitting damage awards for medical monitoring.

In the first article pertaining to the symposium issue of the urban family, Professor Laurie Hauber introduces and promotes a transactional community centered lawyering program that seeks to create economic justice. Hauber asserts that achieving economic justice, which requires eliminating the imbalance of economic and social power in urban communities, mandates providing access to the resources and means necessary to create successful, local community business. Through Hauber’s program, urban entrepreneurs are able to obtain the legal services needed to start their businesses through the volunteer efforts of local attorneys and firms.

Professor Peter Salsich’s article presents a legislative proposal for the development and preservation of affordable workforce housing. The legislative proposals for creating a state affordable housing trust fund was the result of the Forum on Affordable Workforce Housing where bankers, developers, elected and appointed public officials, employers, investors and more met to comprehensively address Missouri’s workforce housing needs.

Casey Gwinn, Gael Strack, Susan Adams, Rebecca Lovelace, and Deborah Norman, all affiliated with Family Justice Centers from around the country, promote the development of Family Justice Centers, essentially one stop shops for the victims and family of domestic violence. The centers provide a single location where victims are able to receive all the services they need to begin the recovery process, including law enforcement, counseling, and legal services.

Judge Bennett Burkemper, of Missouri's 45th Circuit, and Ms. Nina Balsam explore the use of restorative justice practices in domestic violence cases. Burkemper and Balsam advocate for further use of restorative justice programs to benefit the needs of victims/survivors of domestic violence and promote the Victim Impact Panel model that has emerged in Missouri.

Finally, although not pertaining to the symposium, Mr. Mark Behrens and Mr. Christopher Appel provide a comment on the recent Missouri Supreme Court decision in *Meyer ex rel. Coplin v. Fluor Corp.* where the court held that plaintiffs with no present injury were permitted to recover medical monitoring compensatory damages, a reversal of the state's prior stance.

The *Saint Louis University Public Law Review* would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the authors who shared their talents and who gave the *Public Law Review* the opportunity to publish their thoughts. We would also like to thank all of the *Public Law Review* staff members for their tireless efforts, Saint Louis University faculty advisors, and especially Susie Lee and Lauren Rose, without whom this issue would not be possible. This issue provides extraordinary suggestions for helping the development and growth of urban communities and a critique of the recent Missouri Supreme Court's decision to uphold a medical monitoring claim; we hope you enjoy the issue.

COREY SCHAECHER
MANAGING EDITOR

MICHAEL ANTONIO BROCKLAND
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF